



The longevity of any family's participation in the Kinship Navigator Program is solely dependent upon the individual and the scope of his or her needs.

The Kinship Navigator Program is designed to assist the kinship caregiver at any junction in the child/caregiver relationship.

Any family participating in the Georgia Kinship Navigator Program will be well supported in order to thrive and maintain family stabilization.

## Georgia Division of Family & Children Services



# Georgia DFCS Kinship Navigator Program



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## Helping relatives help relatives...

The Georgia Division of Family and Children Services launched the Kinship Navigator Program in direct response to the increasing number of grandparents, relatives and other caregivers who have assumed responsibility for raising another relative's child(ren). As of 2013, 16 percent of all children in care were placed with relatives/kin.

A kinship caregiver serves as a short-term or long-term caregiver for a relative's child(ren). A kinship caregiver can be a grandparent, aunt, uncle, sibling or anyone who has established a kin-like bond with the child(ren). The majority of kinship care arrangements are informal, private arrangements between parents and relative caregivers, while other situations involve the child welfare system.



### Kinship Navigator Program Goals:

- To help kinship caregivers understand and access programs and services.
- To develop proactive ways to address the needs of the Kinship Care providers, and to develop an informal and formal support system.
- To create a safe and supportive home environment for children.



### Kinship Navigator Program Objectives:

- To increase placements of children with relative caregivers when they must be removed from their homes.
- To increase the capacity of grandparents/relative caregivers to care for the children living with them.
- To increase the safety of children living with relative caregivers.
- To improve the educational, physical and mental health of children living with relative caregivers.
- To increase the stability of placements with relative caregivers.
- To increase timely permanency for children living with relative caregivers.

The Kinship Navigator Program is managed by a program manager and 15 kinship navigators who are located in each of the Division of Children and Family Services regions throughout the state of Georgia.

The Kinship Navigator Program serves as a one-stop shop for information and referral services to grandparents, relatives and other caregivers who are currently raising child(ren) who are related to them.

The Kinship Navigator Program's overarching goal is to close the gaps and/or delays in service delivery to kinship caregivers. The focus is to provide responsive and strength-based support to kinship families.

